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On the back cover:

“Smoky Queen” by Philip Peterson.

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Chessable and Chess.com at the Pan-Am

By Dr. Alexey Root, WIM

The Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship (Pan-Am) was January 5-8, 2023. It was covered in the Seattle Times on January 7: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/the-college-national-championship-not-the-one-you-think-is-this-weekend-in-seattle/>

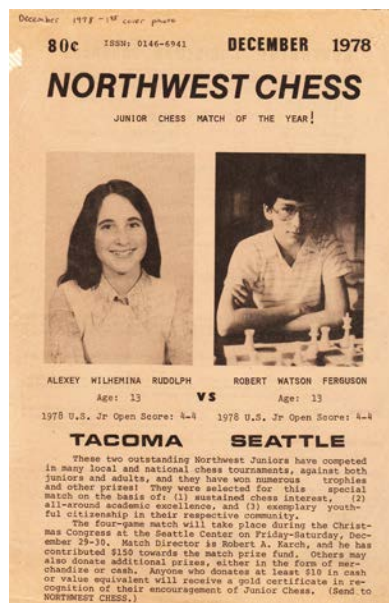
Eighty-five teams from 48 colleges and universities across North America participated. See <https://cea.gg/pages/panam> for the results. Each team was composed of four undergraduate or graduate students (mostly undergraduates) and alternates were allowed too.

I spoke at the opening ceremony and closing ceremony, plus I helped with the Chess.com booth. Also speaking at the opening ceremony was Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General. I attach a photo of me (in a Chessable shirt) with Ferguson, who is a chess master. I also attach the cover of Northwest Chess from December 1978, when Bob and I were 13 years old.

At the Pan-Am, university students and faculty members learned about the Chessable Research Awards: <https://www.chessable.com/blog/chessable-research-awards-winners/>.

[chessable.com/blog/chessable-research-awards-winners/](https://www.chessable.com/blog/chessable-research-awards-winners/). The “Summer” cycle of applications opens January 15 and closes March 15, with the winners to be announced on May 15. There are three cycles of awards each year: Spring, Summer, and Fall. Any chess-themed topics may be submitted for consideration and ongoing or new chess research is eligible.

Chess.com promoted its College Ambassador Program, <https://www.chess.com/news/view/college-ambassador-program>, and its Collegiate Chess League, <https://www.chess.com/news/view/chesscom-announces-ccl-2022-2023>.



Alexey Root was the 1989 U.S. Women’s Champion. She is a Woman International Master. Buy her books at this link: amazon.com/author/alexeyroot. She teaches Chess Online courses for The University of Texas at Dallas. Information on those courses is at this link: <https://is.utdallas.edu/academics/chess/> Since April of 2022, Root has been the Chief Science Officer for Chessable.



L-R: Alexey Root, Mauricio Romano, Andrew Schley, Joe Lee, Judit Sztaray, and Max Mihaylov.

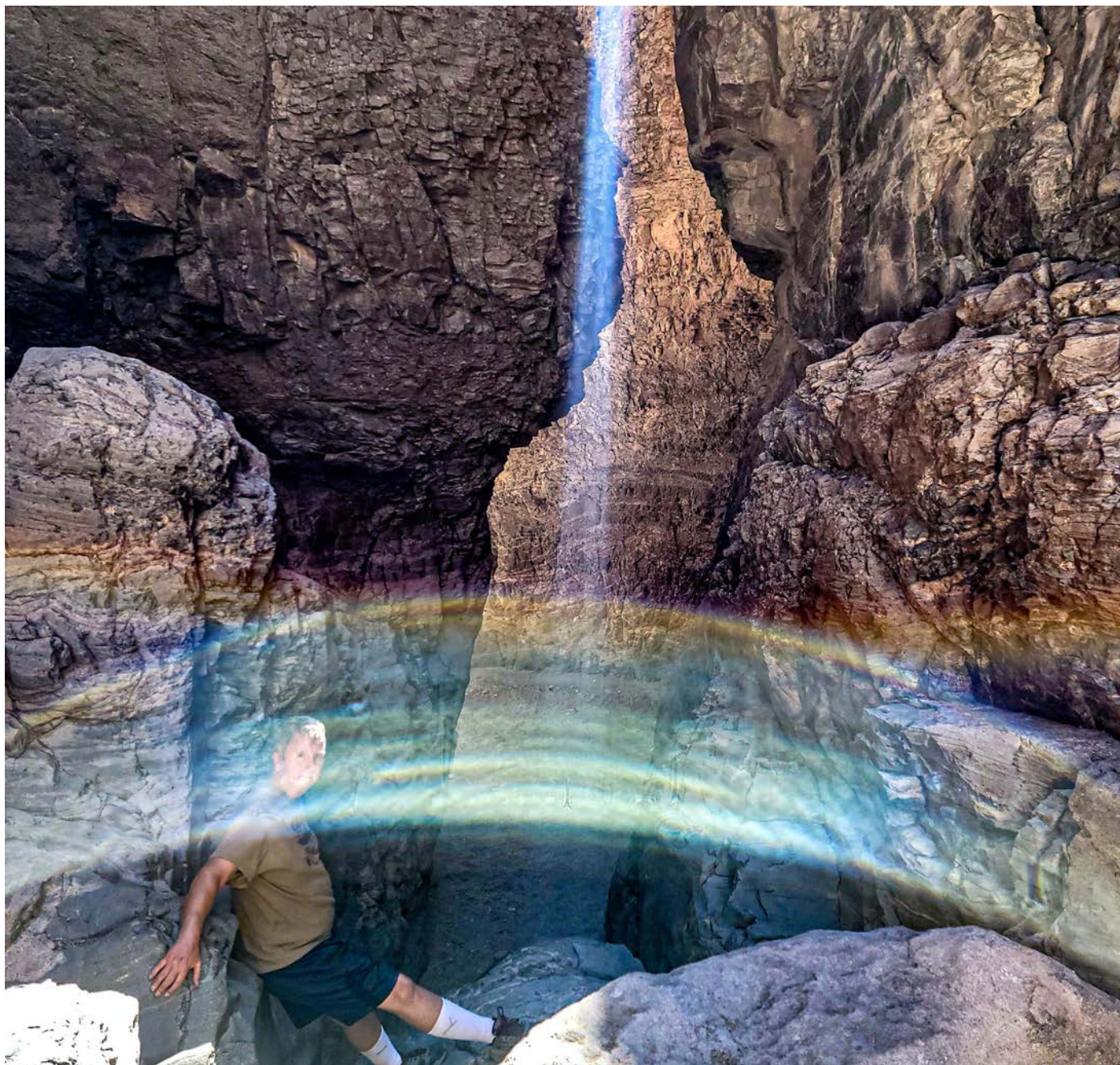


L-R: Bob Ferguson, Alexey Root in 2023.

Philip Peterson

1961—2022

Ralph Dubisch



This is hard. Hard indeed. Every day I see something I want to share, but there's no longer a two-way communication to be had. Politics, religion, science fiction, general silliness, life's adventures, trials, and tribulations; all were things that Philip and I discussed whenever we needed a sounding board, a non-judgmental ear, a friend.

My last text to my dear friend Philip, sent December 29, 2022:

"Rumor is you died hiking on Christmas. Please confirm or deny."

No response. That's a bad sign.

Just three weeks prior to that, on December 7, 2022, he was inviting me on a January camping trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas:

"Interested in some 'camping' in January in Big Bend? More Glamping, as it is in a trailer. No power or water, but a comfy mattress. Two actually. [...] It was ecstasy last December. And, oh those stars!"

On November 11, 2022 he was talking about some physical ailments:

"Thinking of getting several back operations now. Feet fall asleep unless I crouch. Right arm falls asleep unless I either hold it straight up or bend my neck sharply forward. Getting kind of fed up with it. And yet it still has no effect on tennis."

Ah, the joys of aging. He had just had stitches removed from a serious hand wound (I'll spare you the accompanying photo) incurred in a tennis fall.

"Hand still feels like it is broken, but at least it is my left hand, and the stitches are out. Whine, whine, whine."

On December 1, 2022 he sent a picture:



"Twins!" (I suggested, attempting to reference his famous photo of Gary Dorfner)

"Symbiotes!" (Philip improved.)

Northwest Chess

In an email on December 19, 2022, he wrote:

"Heading out for solo camping Friday to the dark skies of Devil's River. A pleasant little breeze. Good thing I'll be at the top of a ridge to get the full effect!"

Clearly, he was doing something he loved, probably pushing the envelope to get the best photograph. That was his style.

One of the things I find myself saying lately is, "Life only gives you one fatal mistake." Philip was a risk taker. He did fairly extreme things. You want examples?

Philip, December 28, 2021:

"Here is my most recent 'lost' story (more to come)..."

"So I spent Christmas evening on a viewing point over the Rio Grande. Maybe a mile from my car. [...]"

"Sunset around 6:00. There were around 30-50 people up there (Rio Grande village nature trail)."

"By about 6:20, I was alone. Pretty darkish at 6:30. Still some red clouds though. So I was enjoying the light show."

"So I kept watching the sky, enjoying the solitude."

"Around 6:45, I started to hear cross border traffic. I'd hear the clapping of hoofs, shallow water splashing on the far bank (I presume), then deep water swishes in the water, then louder shallow water splashing on the near bank."

"And then a few minutes later the entire process was repeated a second time."

"I didn't have a flashlight, so thought maybe I should try to find my car. Coming off a steep hill. In the dark. There was still a little bit of red in the sky, so I could sort of see the path, and I used my tripod to double check on the larger steps, so I didn't stumble too badly."

"Of course I got sorta lost, so was wandering around roads and trails adjacent to the Rio Grande in the dark. Carrying two cameras, a bottle of water, and walking stick. My phone was almost out of power, so I didn't want to use it for light and ruin my night sight."

"I suppose a couple of horses might have just happened to wait until just after dark to swim the Rio Grande. Or maybe it was some tourists. Who didn't want to disturb the night by talking. Or using a light."

"Or cross border human or drug trafficking."

I replied:

"Love these stories."

"Possibly interesting insight. In life, you tend to be quite adventurous, going to Australia, camping on

February 2023

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your own, sitting in the wilderness along the US/Mexico border at night, nearly dying in riptides, dehydrating on a long hike (getting lost, etc.), dodging boulders being shed by glaciers, flying airplanes, driving 100 mph, skydiving... In chess you were rather the opposite, tending to grab material and cover up, trying to stay safe.

"I, on the other hand, was more apt to try chess gambits, attack, sacrifice, and play dynamically. But in life, I tend to see worrisome threats and risks, drive at the speed limit, stay at home... See where I'm going with this?"

Philip, December 29, 2021

"Interesting observation. In chess I tend to play pretty conservatively. Grubbing for a pawn and then go for a slowly improving position (until I blunder).

"In life, a bit more risky, now that you mention it.

"Two more stories then..."

"I hiked down to the Window. It was a fascinating hike. One hikes down to a notch in the mountains that is maybe four feet wide.

"Hiking down into it, at one point you are hiking along a forested stream bed. Or rather a flash flood course. But you are in dim shade, with a temperature of about 55 degrees. Then you get a sudden blast of wind coming out of the Window, and suddenly the ambient air temperature is about 75 degrees. For a few seconds, then the breeze passes, and you are back to 55 degrees.

"Or perhaps the breeze will hit in a more turbulent manner, and the temperature will fluctuate 20 degrees with every few steps you take for a couple of minutes.

"I eventually got to the Window. I was about ten feet from a 500 foot dropoff. Ahhh, but I saw I could get closer.

"There was a very slick section of rock, like a dry water slide. It was only about four feet long, with maybe three vertical feet, and after that you have three or four feet of what would be a narrow pool. After that, a massive lethal drop.

" "Ahh ha" thought I, "I can get closer to the edge." I couldn't walk down, as my feet would have slid out under me, so I sat down and used it [the slick section of rock] as a slide, which was somewhat exhilarating, as if there was a freak accident (my feet getting caught somewhere and causing me to somersault off a cliff, for instance) ...

"Generally a three foot slide isn't very exhilarating. But when you add the possibility of a deadly fall at the end of it, it gets your heart ramped up a bit.

" "The Window" shows the four mile hike to get there. I hate hikes that are downhill at the start, then all uphill on the way back..."

Here's a picture and email from December 31, 2021:



"Canyon hike. The hike comes to an end in a pouroff.

"I stood around for five or ten minutes trying to decide if I could navigate it. I was sure I could get down (what with gravity and all). But I didn't think I could get back up. And it would have been awkward if I was trapped in a canyon with no way out. So I showed wisdom (hard to believe, I know) and turned back.

"You don't really get an idea of how steep this was from the pictures. But steep enough (and smooth enough) that I didn't think I could climb back up."

Oh, there's much more, but perhaps this small selection of adventure from just the last year will be enough for now. In May Philip was hired by US Chess to be the official photographer at the Elementary National Championships in Columbus, Ohio. As well as his regular design job at Harland Clarke, the

check printing company, he often worked as a photographer on weekends and other breaks. He shot mud runs, weddings, chess tournaments, school sporting events... several years ago he was hired to do publicity portraits for a roller derby team. One of the women insisted he take a picture of her nude, wearing only roller skates.

Philip has been part of the *Northwest Chess* scene for over

forty years, as player, photographer, and prolific editor of the magazine. His first stint as editor started in 1990, following my own first series in 1989-90. He worked with me at International Chess Enterprises for several years in the 1990s as well.

A sounding board, a chat partner, a non-judgmental ear. Hard, hard indeed to lose a friend.



*L-R: Bobby Ferguson, Bill Phipps, Paul Zurybida, David Archer, Philip Peterson, Jerry Prothero.
Taken on Mercer Island, June 1981.*

Reminder:

(click [here](#) for details)

February 4-5, Washington President's Cup Seattle/Redmond

**Note: Must be paid by February 1: No late or on-site registrations
or payments.**

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

President's Day Monday, February 20, 2023

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004



OPEN SECTIONS:

K-5 Open, K-12 Open

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. For advanced beginner to advanced players.

Dual Northwest and US Chess Rated. US Chess membership required. **Clocks and notation required – Please bring a digital clock if you have one**, a limited number will be available to borrow.

RESERVE SECTIONS:

Kindergarten, K-2 U800, K-5 U900, K-12 U1200:

A 5-round G/30 Swiss. For novice to intermediate players. Northwest rated only. US Chess membership not required. No clocks used from the start, but a 10-minute clock will be placed into the game after 40 minutes.

SCHEDULE:

Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, lunch, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm. Awards presentation ~ 4:30pm.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students registered in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE:

\$45 by Feb. 13th, \$55 after. Room for 200 players.

AWARDS:

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:

1st \$80, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$60, 4th \$50, 5th \$40

Team Prizes: Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player (by TPR), and biggest upset.

RATING:

Highest of February supplement US Chess Regular/US Chess Online, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

THE DETAILS

Health/Safety Protocols: All players and spectators are required to sign the WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability form prior to the start of the tournament.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Feb. 19th @ 5:00pm. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

This event is a **qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship** on April 29 in Tacoma. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for State.

Online Registration:
[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](https://www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

Questions?

Contact Rekha Sagar, WCF Scholastic Director at 425.496.9160 or rekha4chess@gmail.com

2022 Oregon Junior Closed

Wilson Gibbins

The 2022 edition of the Oregon Junior Closed, held December 9-11, 2022, was a mix of seven returning players joined by five new players. 2021 Challengers section winner Jaden Marx and 2022 Oregon High School champion Calvin Chang moved up from last year's Challengers section to this year's Championship section. With last year's co-champion Roshen Nair joined by Oregon Junior Closed Championship veterans Austin Tang and Ishaan Kodarapu, the only new player in the Championship section was Eric Erard. Yet his lack of experience in the Junior Closed didn't hold him back. He tied for first with now two-time champion Roshen by winning his final four games after losing his head-to-head game against Roshen in round one. Ademidun Adebolu started as the fifth seed in the Challenger's section, but his steady play and tactical accuracy resulted in three wins, two draws, and a clear first place.

In my humble opinion, the road from 1800 to 2200 goes through the Sicilian Defense. This is clearly an oversimplification, but as George Box put it, "All models are wrong but some are useful." It was a useful model for this year's tournament, as Roshen Nair navigated through four open Sicilians in five games (three as black, one as white) to secure his co-championship. Ademidun Adebolu used the Sicilian Defense to score two of his three wins. Overall, 13 of the 30 games were Sicilians. But Eric Erard, the other co-champion, ignored the Sicilian main road and took the road



*The co-champions: Roshen Nair (L), Eric Erard.
Photo credit: Sanjaya Nair.*

less taken, with two Polish Openings (1.b4), one St. George Defense (1.e4 e6 2.d4 a6 3.Bd3 b5) and one Borg Defense (1.e4 g5), picking up from where Michael Basman (RIP) left off.

Thanks to Dave Murray for organizing this event and helping me with the tournament director responsibilities. Thanks for the Portland Chess Club for allowing us to use their facility. Thanks to the players and parents for making this an event I look forward to every year. And finally, my apologies to Calvin Chang for publishing two of his losses. He plays solid moves and defends stubbornly, making wins against him all the more impressive.

**Roshen Nair (2073) –
Eric Erard (1935) [C11]**
Oregon Junior Closed
(Championship)
(R1), December 9, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

The importance of this first round game was not obvious going in. Roshen is the defending co-champion, and this is Eric's first year in the closed. Roshen was played 1.c4 and 1.Nf3 last year, but switched to 1.e4 in 2022. Eric plays the French, a relatively conventional opening for him, as mentioned above. The players conspire to make the game as tactical as any Sicilian.

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4
8.Nxd4 Be7**

Eric's developing move looks normal, but it not that popular. It should not be confused with 7...Be7, which appears in a few of my French repertoire books.

2022 Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Roshen Sanjay Nair	2073	OR	W2	W5	W6	D4	D3	4
2	Eric Christian Erard	1935	OR	L1	W4	W3	W6	W5	4
3	Jaden Andrew Marx	1771	OR	L4	W6	L2	W5	D1	2.5
4	Ishaan Kodarapu	1985	OR	W3	L2	L5	D1	D6	2
5	Calvin Chang	1765	OR	D6	L1	W4	L3	L2	1.5
6	Austin Tang	2001	OR	D5	L3	L1	L2	D4	1

The usual moves are 8...Bc5, preparing to trade some pieces, or 8...Qb6, entering a memory-challenging poison-pawn line that begins 9.Qd2 Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3.

9.Qd2 Nc5 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0-0 Qe8

I like the look of this move, but Stockfish is not impressed. 11...Bd7 with a normal White advantage over the French that I can never find a way to exploit.

12.h4 f6 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Bf3 Qe7

The tricky 14...Na4 tries to make something from the 11...Qe8 move 15.Nxa4? (15.Nce2 retains White's advantage) 15...Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Qxa4=.

15.h5 Bd7? 16.h6?±

The engine notices an even better move: 16.Nf5! exf5 17.Qxd5+ Be6 18.Qxc5+-. The French appears solid, but this line is full of tactical tricks.

16...g6 17.Rhe1 Bh4



Position after 17...Bh4

18.Re2±

18.Nxd5!+- exd5 19.Bxd5+ Ne6 (19...Kh8 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Bd4+) 20.Nxe6 Bxe6 21.Bf2 Nd8 22.Rxe6 Nxe6 23.Re1 Bxf2 24.Rxe6, and although White is temporarily a rook down, he has an overwhelming position based on the potential discovered check when White moves the rook, the hanging bishop on f2, and possibility of checkmate if White's queen finds its way to g7.

18...Rad8 19.Bg1

19.Nxd5!

19...Rf7 20.Nxd5! Qf8 21.Nc3?±

21.Nxc6 Bxc6 22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Rxe6+-

21...Rxf4



Position after 21...Rxf4

White is much better, but the move that maintains the big advantage is hard to find.

22.Ne4?

22.g3! lures Black's bishop off the protection of the rook on d8, which means the bishop on d7 will be pinned: 22...Bxg3 23.Nxc6 bxc6 24.Bxc5 Qxc5 25.Ne4 Qf8 26.Nxg3 Rxf3 27.Qg5, and Black's pinned bishop on d7 combined with the weakness of his kingside give him too many problems to solve. Moves like Rf2-e2 and Ng3-e4 are coming.

22...Nxe4?

Black's last chance is 22...Nxd4! 23.Qxd4 Bb5, and Black is close to winning.

23.Rxe4= e5?

23...Rxe4 24.Bxe4=

24.Rxf4 Qxf4 25.Bd5+ Kh8

25...Kf8 26.Be3 Qf6 27.Nxc6 Bxc6 28.Qb4+ Ke8 29.Bxc6+ bxc6 30.Rxd8+ Kxd8 31.Qb8+ Kd7 32.Qxa7+±

26.Qxf4 exf4 27.Nxc6

Winning at least a piece as White threatens 28.Bd4+.

1-0

Pace Lykins (1750) –
Ademidun Adebolu (1439) [B27]
Oregon Junior Closed (Challengers)
(R1), December 12, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.c3

It is logical to blunt the force of Black's dragon bishop, but this move is not forceful enough. If White is hesitant in a Sicilian, Black will take over. 5.c4 is the dreaded Maróczy Bind which nobody seems to dread anymore. 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 is another popular line, trying to reach a Yugoslav attack against the Dragon without falling for some tactical trick along the way.

5...Nf6 6.Bd3 0-0 7.Nd2 e5!

Doesn't this leave a hole on d5?

8.Ne2 d5!

The hole on d5 didn't last long.

9.0-0 Nc6 10.exd5 Qxd5



Position after 10...Qxd5

Normally young players are discouraged from bringing their queen out too early, the notable exception being Vinnie's advice to Max Pomeranc in the final scene of *Searching for Bobby Fischer*. But Ademidun has judged that Black's queen is safe in the middle of a full board of pieces.

11.Qc2 Be6 12.Ne4 Rac8 13.a3 Rfd8 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Be4 Qb5

Black is a little better developed, so White must be careful.

16.f4?

16.a4

16...Bb3!

Wins the knight on e2

17.Bxc6 Qc5+ 18.Nd4 Bxc2

or wins White's queen.

19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Be3 Bxd4 21.cxd4 Qxc6



Ademidun Adebolu.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

22.Rac1 Qb5 23.Rf6 Qe2 24.Bh6 Be4
0-1

**Calvin Chang (1765) –
Roshen Nair (2073) [B90]**
Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)
(R2), December 10, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Nbd7
9.Qd2 h5

This move looks strange to your annotator's old eyes—where will Black castle? But it is popular and scores well. As a Sicilian player, I have frequently been crushed by White's kingside pawn storms, so any move that restrains White's obvious and effective plan starts to make sense.

10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Kb1 b5



Position after 11...b5

12.h3

An interesting try. 12.Nd5 is the most popular move in this position, but historically it hasn't achieved much. 12...Bxd5 13.exd5 Nb6 14.Bxb6 (14.

Oregon Junior Closed (Challengers)									
Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Ademidun Adebolu	1439	OR	W5	D3	W6	W4	D2	4
2	Noah Houston	1690	OR	W4	W5	D3	D6	D1	3.5
3	Kai Sebastian Lewis	1705	OR	D6	D1	D2	L5	W4	2.5
4	William Nobles	1735	OR	L2	W6	W5	L1	L3	2
5	Pace Lykins	1750	OR	L1	L2	L4	W3	D6	1.5
6	Anisha Sripada	1362	OR	D3	L4	L1	D2	D5	1.5

Qa5 Nbx d5 15.Bf2 has been played successfully a few times in 2022, and the engine thinks White is fine in spite of the missing pawn.) 14...Qxb6 is rather even.

12...Be7 13.Rg1 h4 14.f4 Qc7 15.a3 Nb6 16.f5?!

This tempting move gives Black a slight advantage. 16.Bxb6 Qxb6 17.Bd3=

16...Bd7!?

Roshen loses a little time to retain this important bishop. It defends the pawn on b5, making the advance of Black's queenside pawns easier. And it keeps a piece that can fight for the important d5 square. My automatic choice would be 16...Bc4, but White has equality after 17.Na5.

The move 16...Bxb3? is a positional mistake. Sure, it saves time and leaves Black with a center-pawn majority, but after 17.cxb3: 1) The cluster of pawns on the a- and b-files keeps White's king safe; 2) White can now contest the c-file which is normally a source of Black's counterplay; and 3) White can always prevent Black's d6-d5 break by taking the knight on b6 and playing a knight to d5.

17.Bxb6?



Position after 17.Bxb6

Stops the d6-d5 break, but with both Black's queen and bishop defending the b-pawn, Black's queenside pawns will roll forward.

17...Qxb6 18.Bd3 a5! 19.Na2 Bd8 20.g4 hgx3 21.Rxg3 Kf8! 22.Rdgl Rh7!

It looks like White's major pieces are about to crash through on the kingside, but Black has sufficient defensive resources to hold the line.

23.Nbc1 Bc6 24.Qg2 Nh5! 25.Rg4 Nf4 26.Qf1 Bf6 27.Ne2 Nxe2?

Black is still better after this move, but Black can leave the knight on f4. If White plays Ne2xf4, ...exf4 will open a diagonal for Black's bishop on f6 towards White's king. 27...b4 28.axb4 axb4 29.Nxf4?! exf4 30.Qxf4 b3! opens more lines towards White's king: 31.Qxd6+ Be7 32.Qh2 bxa2+ 33.Ka1 Bf6 34.Qd6+ Ke8 (34...Kg8?? 35.Qxf6+-) 35.e5. And while the position might look a little sketchy for Black with his king caught in the center, 35...Be7 36.Qd4 Bc5 gives Black an overwhelming material advantage.

28.Bxe2. Ke7

28...b4 29.axb4 axb4 30.Bc4 Qd4 31.Qd3 Qxd3 32.Bxd3 Rb8.

29.R1g3!=



Position after 29.R1g3

Calvin has fought his way back into the game.

29...Rb8 30.Rb3 Rhh8 31.Qd1 Rb7 32.Rgg3 Rhh8 33.Bxb5?!

Simplifying into a slightly better endgame for Black. Just the kind of position Roshen plays well. 33.Nc3 is still equal.

33...Bxb5 34.a4 Qd4 35.Qxd4 exd4
36.axb5 Rxb5 37.Rxb5 Rxb5 38.Rb3?!
38.Nc1
38...Rxb3 39.cxb3



Position after 39.cxb3

Both sides have many weak pawns. Whose pawns are weaker?

39...d5!

Roshen liquidates one of his weak pawns while making White's pawn on f5 weaker, activating his king in the process.

40.exd5 Kd6 41.b4 a4 42.Kc2 Kxd5 43.Kd3 Bg5 44.b5

This is the best try, pushing this passed pawn, but it is insufficient to hold the game.

44...Kc5 45.b6 Kxb6 46.Kxd4 Bf6+!
47.Kd5 Bxb2

The material is reduced, White is only one pawn down, but the game cannot be

saved.

48.h4 Kb5 49.h5 a3 50.Kd6 Kc4 51.Ke7
Kb3 52.f6 Bxf6+ 53.Kxf7 Kxa2 54.Kg6
Kb1 55.Kf7 a2 56.Kg6 a1Q 57.Kh7 Qe5
58.Kg6 Qg5+ 59.Kh7 Qxh5+

0-1

Will Nobles (1735) –
Ademidun Adebolu (1439) [B70]
Oregon Junior Closed (Challengers)
(R4), December 11, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nge2

The Chameleon Sicilian. Maybe it will be an open Sicilian, maybe a closed. Time will tell.

3...Bg7 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4

An open Dragon Sicilian, just as if White had played 2.Nf3 and 3.d4. The Chameleon Sicilian is a problem for Sicilian players who have incompatible repertoires in the open and closed variations—in particular, players who fianchetto their king's bishop in closed lines but do not play the Dragon. But Ademidun seems pretty comfortable in these Dragon positions—see his game from round one against Pace Lykins.

7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.h3
Be6 11.Qd1 Qd7 12.Kh2 Rfd8 13.f4
d5?!

Sicilian defenders should always be

looking for this pawn break in the center, but in this case it gives White a lot of space on the kingside.

14.e5 Ne8 15.Qd4

Blockading Black's d-pawn. Normally the queen is a poor blockader, but here it is hard to drive it off d4. Ademidun tries to find a way.

15...Nd6!?

A tricky move, exploiting the pin on the d-pawn to free his knight.

16.g4

Stopping the knight from reaching the active f5 square, but it was OK to allow it. 16.Rd1 Nf5 17.Qf2 d4 18.g4

16...Rac8 17.Bxd5?!

White's open kingside and undeveloped queenside make this pawn grab a risky proposition. 17.Qf2 and the greedy 17.Qxa7!? are also playable.

17...Nb5!

17...Ne8! also works.

18.Nxb5 Qxb5

Black keeps his advantage with the in-between move 18...Rxc2+ if he can calculate as far as 19.Bg2 Bd5 20.Rf2 Rxf2 21.Qxf2 Bxg2. Material is even, but Black is better.

19.c4 Rxd5!?

Most black queen retreats are also equal, but this move is the most challenging to meet.



Position after 19...Rxd5

20.cxd5?

The cold-blooded 20.Qxd5! is the only move that retains equality: 20...Bxd5 21.cxb5 Rc2+ 22.Kg3 Rg2+ gives Black sufficient play for his material deficit.

20...Qxf1

And Black wins. Eternal tactical vigilance is the price of playing the open Sicilian, either as White or Black.



Roshen Nair (L), Eric Erard. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

21.dxe6 Rc2+ 22.Bd2 Qe2+ 23.Kg3 Qxd2 24.exf7+ Kxf7 25.e6+ Kxe6 26.f5+ gxf5 27.gxf5+ Kf7 28.Qa4 Qh2+ 29.Kg4 Rg2+ 30.Kf3 Qxh3+ 31.Ke4 Rg4+ 32.Kd5 Rxa4

0-1

Calvin Chang (1765) –

Eric Erard (1935) [C01]

Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)

(R5), December 11, 2022

[Wilson Gibbins]

Roshen had a quick draw in round five, giving Eric the opportunity to catch him if he can win on demand with Black in the last round.

1.e4 e6

Another French for Eric, repeating his first-round opening against Roshen?

2.d4 a6!?

Nope, Eric has three straight wins with non-conventional openings—two Polish as White, one Borg (1.e4 g5) as Black. Why stop now?

3.Bd3 b5 4.c3 c5 5.Be3 c4 6.Bc2 Bb7 7.Nd2 Nf6 8.f3 Be7 9.Ne2 d6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qe1 Qc7 12.Qg3

White has played sensibly and has the edge. But this is the kind of anti-classical position that Eric thrives on.

12...Rg8 13.f4



Position after 13.f4

Preparing to push pawns and open the center, where it appears Black's king will reside, as surely Black will not castle behind the advanced queenside pawns. 13.f4 restrains Black's kingside pawn advances.

But if you can predict Black's next move, you might start to snipe away at the queenside. After 13.b3, 13.a4 g5!? White is better, but it is unnerving to see pawns advance towards one's king.

13...0-0-0!?

Risky moves get labeled !? if they succeed, ?! if they fail.

14.b3 cxb3 15.axb3 h5 16.c4 b4

Keeping lines as closed as possible on the queenside, at the cost of giving White an impressive pawn center.

17.Ra4 Rdf8

Black can start his plan immediately with 17...Ng4 18.Rxb4 g5, making a mess while holding White's advantage to a minimum: 19.fxg5 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 Bxg5 21.Qc3.

18.Bd3 Ng4 19.Rc1 g5 20.f5 Nxe3

20...exf5 21.exf5 Re8 22.Rxb4 Nxe3 23.c5 (23.Qxe3? g4) 23...dxc5 24.Qxe3

21.Qxe3 g4



Position after 21...g4

22.Nf4

This knight move isn't wrong, but it leaves the rook on c1 undefended, so the attempts to open the position with the c4-c5 move will be less threatening. 22.c5 Bg5 23.Qxg5! Rxg5 24.cxd6 Qxc1+ 25.Nxc1 creates a messy position that Stockfish claims is much better for White.

22...Bg5 23.Qf2?

This queen move to unpin the knight gets White into trouble.

23...e5

23...h4?

24.dxe5?

Not sure anyone would play 24.c5 with the rook on c1 undefended, but Stockfish claims equality based on some long lines.

24...dxe5?

The natural recapture is not best. 24...Qc5! 25.Qxc5+ (25.Nd5 Nxe5 26.Bb1 Bxd2) 25...Nxc5 26.g3 Nxa4 27.bxa4 dxe5; 24...Nc5 25.Bb1 Bxf4 26.Qxf4 dxe5.

25.c5!

Calvin finds his best plan—crack open

the queenside at any cost.

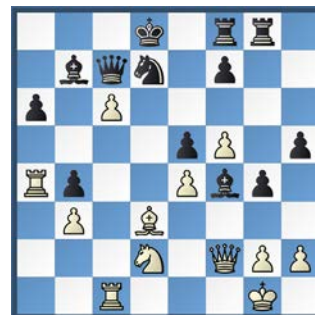
25...Bxf4?

25...g3! 26.hxg3 exf4 accelerates the process of breaking open White's kingside.

26.c6!±

The tide has turned in Calvin's favor.

26...Kd8



Position after 26...Kd8

27.Rc2=

27.g3! keeps White's kingside closed for longer. The ...h5-h4 pawn break is slower than the ...g4-g3 pawn break.

27...Bxc6 28.Rxa6 g3!= 29.Qe2?

29.hxg3 Bxg3 30.Qe3 Bf4 31.Qf2 Bg3= (31...Nb8? 32.Ra7)

29...gxh2+



Position after 29...gxh2+

It has been a tense, back-and-forth game until now, but Black keeps the win in hand the rest of the game, despite his open king. White can't bring quite enough firepower to the attack, and the pawn on h2 is a monster.

30.Kh1 Nb8 31.Bb5 Bxb5 32.Qxb5 Nxa6 33.Rxc7 Nxc7 34.Qxb4 Re8 35.Nc4 Rxg2 36.Kxg2 Rg8+ 37.Kf2 h1Q 38.Qb8+ Ke7 39.Qxg8 Ne8 40.f6+ Nxf6 41.Qb8 Nxe4+ 42.Ke2 Qb1 43.Qb7+ Kf6 44.Qc6+ Kg7 45.Kf3 Qd3+ 46.Kg2 Qg3+ 47.Kf1 Qf2#

0-1

WA State Barber/Rockefeller QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



CLASSICAL SECTIONS:

K-5 Open (Rockefeller Qualifier)

6-8 Open (Barber Qualifier)

A 4-round G/75; +5 Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: 9am, 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm. Awards ceremony ~ 9:45pm.

RAPID SECTIONS:

K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open,

4-8 U900, 4-12 Open:

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, lunch, 1:00pm, 2:15pm. Awards ceremony ~ 3:30pm.

ALL SECTIONS:

NWSRS Rated. Open sections are also US Chess Rated, which requires clocks, notation, and US Chess membership. **All equipment is provided.** The U800 and U900 sections don't require clocks or notation, but a clock set for 10 minutes will be placed in the game after 40 minutes of play.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2022-23 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE:

\$45 by March 18th, \$55 after. Room for 200 players.

AWARDS:

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift

Cards awarded in each section:

1st \$90, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$70, 4th \$60, 5th \$50.

Team Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections: 1st \$30, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20, 4th \$15, 5th \$10.

Special Prizes (per section):

Medals for first-timers, best female player, and biggest upset.

RATING:

Highest of US Chess Regular March supplement, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

THE DETAILS

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri., March 24th @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster and waitlisted players will be offered a spot.

Highest finishing WA State resident in the K-5 Open and 6-8 Open section will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) to become the WA State representative at the Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August. A tie for first place in the Barber/Rockefeller Qualifier sections will be resolved later in the year by playoffs, to be played within two months from the end of the tournament.

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Robert “Bob” Bishop

1953—2022

David and Ellen Baumann

Longtime chess coach, volunteer, and friend Robert (Bob) Bishop passed away suddenly on Christmas morning, December 25th, 2022. Bob was born on September 30, 1953.

Bob taught math and led chess clubs at Cynthia Mann Elementary in Boise, and later at North Star Charter School in Eagle. After he retired from teaching, he coached multiple chess clubs in the Boise area. Bob helped with ICA (Idaho Chess Association) and WISCL (Western Idaho Scholastic Chess League) scholastic chess tournaments, often in the role of emcee. Students still recall the Chess Extravaganza that Bob and former Girl’s State champ Erica Barkell held in 2016.

In addition to teaching and chess, Bob was a motivational speaker and magician—known internationally as “Mr. X—America’s Math Magician.” He touched so many lives by mentoring and educating others. His infectious enthusiasm will be missed by both students and adults.



Bob Bishop's hat and Bob Bishop at the 2016 Idaho Scholastic Championship. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Chess, Art And The Power Of Community

By Gabriela Osias

Chess found me at a pivotal moment in my life. I was nearing the end of a decade devoted to a career in architecture. As a naturally curious and creative person, the passion and dedication to the profession came easily. I followed the ascribed path, through long hours and high stress, without much question. But during that last year at the firm in 2021, in the throes of a pandemic, while attempting to manage my first project, I could feel my creativity and focus slipping. I was burning out.

A few months later, I made a new friend, Gideon. He told me about a chess club that met at bars during the week. Never having had much of a night life, it sparked my curiosity and I decided to stop by after work. Besides a basic understanding of the moves (my dad introduced my brother and me as kids), I had no sense of tactics or strategy—but was eager to try something new, and, perhaps subconsciously, find an escape.

I remember walking into the bar and the organizer, Finn, greeted me right off the bat, as if he was expecting me. I thought to myself, *cool, ice broken—that was easy*. A few minutes later another guy walked in, it was his first time too—his name was Dustin and we started playing.

After several months of regular play, I began to notice the inherent creativity of the game. This ever-changing compositional grid—informed by a continuous stream of input and output, action and reaction—mirroring the quiet dialogue between painter and canvas or the energy amongst musicians improvising. A

creative process of intuition and skill until the final piece evolves into something else entirely, something neither player could have foreseen—to me, that is the art of chess.

This discovery, as well as befriending other creatives at the club, like Caitlin (graphic designer) and Karli (musician/UX designer), helped reinforce chess as a creative outlet. Seeing their artistic contributions through flyers, T-shirts, and the website, inspired me to offer my own skills to the collective. My first project was an LED installation I built at the woodshop I now work for. Creating drawings, programming the CNC, testing materials and assembly methods—took me back to my days of architecture studio. This glowing pawn, now stationed at Black Cat Bar, serves as an inviting beacon for passers-by. And recently, I've

way to *connect* with each other, using it as a tool for philanthropy—a way to *support* each other—just made sense.

Fast forward a year later and these folks (plus many others) are now close friends of mine. They've coached me, laughed with me, and always encouraged me. Each time I walk into the club I'm met with the same warmth and kindness as I was that first time. That sense of belonging and knowing that there are people rooting for you is invaluable and has allowed me to find my creative spirit again. And I never could have guessed that joining a chess club would help me get here.

The crux of our personal struggles is that they often center around ourselves. But as I emerge from the low and find my footing, I can feel my perspective expand. The realities of others can now come

into view. My experience of sadness, of feeling lost, of failure—is now less focused on me, but rather, the shared human experience of it all. And while I cannot claim to be beyond those feelings, they sit with me differently. That difference might be imperceptible to most, but it's been a significant shift for me—a sort of 'redistribution' of the weight of the world.

These gifts of creativity, friendship, and personal growth through chess have inspired me to try to share it with those who need it the most. Through this initiative, I hope to offer something beyond the basic necessities, but equally important to the mind and spirit. Along with donating chess equipment, my friends and I hosted our first volunteer event at a shelter in Shoreline to help them establish their own chess club.

None of us can brave the elements of life on our own—especially those who have been marginalized by society or circumstance. I am hopeful that by incorporating chess into our social services, it will encourage meaningful connections and build self-confidence so that we may all find our center again.

Community is our port in the storm. Chess club is my community.



Gabriela Osias displays her art. Photo courtesy of Gabriela Osias.

been working on a series of mixed media posters to celebrate each club location.

Once I started selling art, the idea to fundraise with it developed in sync with my restored motivation. I started viewing this gift of inspiration as an opportunity to pay it forward. Since art at its core is a

2022 Washington Class Championships

Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Washington Class Championships were held over Thanksgiving weekend November 25-27 at the Redmond Marriott. Located in the heart of Redmond Town Center, the Redmond Marriott is a favorite venue for many due to its convenient proximity to many shops and restaurants, as well as free parking! Chess players from throughout North America including parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and British Columbia were represented in the three-day chess extravaganza. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan. WCF Treasurer Robert Allen, Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and Washington Class Photographer Meiling Cheng assisted in running the event. Over 150 players participated in the three-day chess festival which spanned the holiday weekend and paid out a prize fund of \$11,000. The Thanksgiving Scholastic, directed by Coach Lane Van Weerdhuizen, attracted 127 juniors on Black Friday November 25! Numerous fun side events including the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss, Puzzle Solving Championship, Workshop for Girls and Women, Chess Art Exhibition, Magic Show, Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship, G/45 Championship, and "Knight Time" Blitz rounded out the immersive chess experience!

In the modest ten-player Master section, it was the Experts who took charge and tied for first place with a score of four points apiece: David Zhou (1883-2000 (US Chess) – 4.0) of Seattle, Pranav K. Anoop (2079-2103 – 4.0) of Bellevue, Ananth Gottumukkala (1991-2018 – 4.0) of Sammamish, and Ryan Min (2010-2041 – 4.0) of Bellevue. Min began the tournament red-hot with an undefeated four points from five games and was the clear leader heading into the final

round, where he was matched against the strong master Kyle Haining. A clutch win by Haining opened the door for Zhou, Anoop, and Gottumukkala to catch him and tie for first place. To determine the seed into the Championship section of the 2023 Washington State Championship, a two-game playoff was held between Zhou and Anoop, since Min and Gottumukkala had already qualified by winning the Junior Closed and Washington Open, respectively. CM Kyle Haining (2288-2287 – 3.0) of Lake Forest Park, a recent UW Computer Science grad who now works in Seattle, captured the second U2300 prize with three points, despite taking two half-point byes and a zero-point bye in the fifth round!

James Wei (1858-1937 – 5.0), a high school student from Boise, topped the 23-player Expert section with an undefeated five-point score! Along his way to the title, Wei allowed only two draws against Alex Gross (1842) and Yiding Lu (1973). Last year's Washington K-5 Rockefeller Qualifier Yiding Lu (1973-1997 – 4.5) of Bellevue finished in second place, recovering well from a second-round loss to Anand Gupta, rattling off three-and-a-half points from his final four games. As the highest-finishing Washington resident in the Expert section, Yiding earns the seed into the 2023 WA State Championship: Premier section. A duo of adult players tied for third/first U2100 honors half-a-point back: Derek Edwards (2065-2068 – 4.0) of Seattle and Leonid Gavrysh (1968-1979 – 4.0) of Brier. Four gentlemen rounded out the Expert prize winners and shared the second U2100 prize with 3.5 points each: Paul Bartron (2055-2053 – 3.5) of Tacoma, Colin Diamond (1978-1992 – 3.5) of Seattle, Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1948-1945 – 3.5) of Kirkland, and Bertrand Wan (1923-1948 – 3.5) of Bellevue.

In the 23-player Class A section, Brent Baxter (1902-1931 – 5.5)

of Olympia won first place with a dominating score, allowing only a single draw against Arnold Yang (1611) in the final round! For his victory, Brent is seeded into the Invitational section of the 2023 Washington State Championship. Westview High School junior Arnold Yang (1611-1716 – 4.5) of Portland finished in second place a full point back. Two chess kings, Valentin Razmov (1786-1801 – 4.0) of Seattle and Gil Wolff (1844-1847 – 4.0) of Kirkland, shared third/first U1900 honors with four points each. A sextuplet of up-and-coming Washington princes split the second U1900 prize to help cover their gas money: Alexander Gross (1858-1842 – 3.5) of Seattle, Edward Cheng (1679-1707 – 3.5) of Seattle, Edward Li (1696-1699 – 3.5) of Redmond, Jamie Zhu (1663-1669 – 3.5) of Sammamish, Derek Heath (1718-1730 – 3.5) of Camas, and Daniel Wang (1568-1653 – 3.5) of Mercer Island.

In a closely contested 29-player Class B section, the tournament's largest, three players tied for first: Travis Olson (1743-1728 – 4.5) of Mukilteo, Daniel Wilke (1633-1641 – 4.5) of Sammamish, and Michael Shapiro (1541-1566 – 4.5) of Sammamish. Amazingly enough, none of the first-place finishers faced each other over the course of the tournament, likely due to the abundance of draws and half-point-byes in the section. A playoff between Wilke and Shapiro has yet to be held to determine the seed into the Challenger's section of the 2023 Washington State Championship. Travis Olson has already qualified by virtue of winning the earlier Washington Open event in 2022. A quintuplet of players finished tied for first/second U1700 a half-point back: Darsh Verma (1422-1456 – 4.0) of Bothell, Jeremy Jusak (1627-1609 – 4.0) of Anacortes, Aaron Ren (1450-1500 – 4.0) of Bellevue, Lucas Liu (1308-1422 – 4.0) of Bellevue, and Vineesh Nallabothula (1368-1479 – 4.0) of Redmond.

Three chess musketeers – David Hendricks (1500-1508 – 5.0) of Sammamish, Arlo Breslauer (1183-1303 – 5.0) of Seattle, and Ramesh Kumar (1364-1378 – 5.0) of Snoqualmie – topped the 25-player Class C section. Kumar bounced back well from his second-round loss to youngster Evan Cen and won his final four games to keep pace with Hendricks and Breslauer, who drew against each other in the final round. Miranda Meng (1000-1136 – 4.0) of Bellevue earned first U1500 honors a full point back, winning her final three games in a row! Eighth grader Devansh Sharma (1023-1140 – 3.5) of Redmond won the second place U1500 prize by virtue of being the only player to score three-and-a-half points in his section. Two chess queens – Selina Cheng (1176-1159 – 3.0) of Seattle and Haituka Anandkumar (1177-1153 – 3.0) of Redmond – shared the Best Female Players prize.

In the 23-player Class D section, seventh-grader Abhinav Mishra (1229-1346 – 5.5) emerged victorious with an impressive five-and-a-half points from six games. Along the way, Abhinav, who some say is related to GM Abhimanyu Mishra, conceded only a single draw to second place finisher Balbir Singh (1312) in the third round. Mishra's decisive approach paid off, as the solid Balbir Singh (1312-1312 – 4.5) of Sea-Tac also drew against Zoe Xu (753) and Paul Buchignani (1382). A duo of chess kings, Vladimir Fedorov (923-1070 – 4.0) of Sammamish and Laurion Burchall (1229-1216 – 4.0) of Seattle, split the third place prize with four points apiece. Seattle chess enthusiast Stephen Weller (1138-1129 – 4.0) earned first U1300 honors also with four points. Two seventh-grade chess studs – Zerui Li (unrated-1092 – 3.5) of Bothell and William Cummins (1027-1044 – 3.5) of Snoqualmie – shared the second U1300 Prize to round out the Class D prize winners.

The 18-player Class E section featured an eclectic mix of up-and-coming juniors and adult chess players who have recently discovered chess these past few years during the pandemic. Brier chess queen Iryna Gavrysh (unrated-1321 – 5.5), dominated the section with an undefeated five-and-a-half points from six games and claimed the first Unrated Prize for her efforts. She conceded only a single draw to Oregonian Phil Long (1222) in the third round on her way to the title. Two underrated chess kings,

Mixed Doubles Teams						
Name	Partner	Event	Section	Team Name	Team Score	Team Prize
Marilyn Wilke	Daniel Wilke	3-day	Class E	Wilke	1.5 + 4.5 = 6	
Daniel Wilke	Marilyn Wilke	3-day	Class B	Wilke		
Selina Cheng	Edward Cheng	3-day	Class C	Chengmates	3 + 3.5 = 6.5	
Edward Cheng	Selina Cheng	3-day	Class A	Chengmates		
Haituka Anandkumar	David Zhou	3-day	Class C	AnandZhou	3 + 4 = 7	3rd: \$93
David Zhou	Haituka Anandkumar	3-day	Master	AnandZhou		
Iryna Gavrysh	Leonid Gavrysh	3-day	Class E	Gavrysh	5.5 + 4 = 9.5	1st: \$279
Leonid Gavrysh	Iryna Gavrysh	3-day	Expert	Gavrysh		
Miranda Meng	Aaron Ren	3-day	Class C	MengRen	4 + 4 = 8	2nd: \$186
Aaron Ren	Miranda Meng	3-day	Class B	MengRen		
Emma Li	Edward Li	3-day	Class B	Scout	2.5 + 3.5 = 6	
Edward Li	Emma Li	3-day	Class A	Scout		
Varnika Jammalamadaka	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	3-day	Class A	Jamma	3 + 3 = 6	
Vihaan Jammalamadaka	Varnika Jammalamadaka	3-day	Expert	Jamma		
Zoe Xu	Dann Merriman	3-day	Class D	XuMer	3 + 3 = 6	
Dann Merriman	Zoe Xu	3-day	Class C	XuMer		
Niharika Vutukuri	Adhrith Vutukuri	3-day	Class E	Vutukuri	3 + 2.5 = 5.5	
Adhrith Vutukuri	Niharika Vutukuri	3-day	Class D	Vutukuri		

Phil Long (1222-1231 – 5.0) of Portland and Adam Hard (942-988 – 5.0) of Snohomish, did not find things difficult as they each cruised to within a half-point of Gavrysh. Youngsters Tristan Yeung (unrated-935 – 3.5) of Bellevue and Nehanth Kakani (101-324 – 3.5) of Bellevue shared third/first U1000 honors with three-and-a-half points apiece. Sammamish chess wizards William Ma (705-628 – 3.0) and Riddhima Chauhan (204-328 – 3.0) shared second U1000/first U800 honors a half-point back. William could have finished even higher if not for an unfortunate incident in the fifth round. During his game against Shrey Bahl (unrated), William had forced mate in two with a back-rank checkmate. While Shrey was thinking through his options, William became impatient, awarded himself the win on the pairings sheet while the game was still going, and left the playing hall! Shrey, facing the forced mate, eventually made his move after William had left and then claimed the win due to his opponent's extended absence from the board! Niharika Vutukuri (459-499 – 3.0) of Redmond won the Best Female Prize with a score of three points.

In addition to the regular overall and class prizes, this year's event featured a Mixed Doubles Competition in which the top three male-female two-player teams combined among all sections qualified for a prize. A total of nine mixed double teams were formed; some with siblings/spouses teaming up, and others with friends joining forces! The mixed doubles team of Leonid and Iryna Gavrysh, a husband-and-wife team from Brier, won the first-place prize with a combined score of 9.5 points. Team MengRen consisting of

Miranda Meng and Aaron Ren, both from Bellevue, claimed second-place honors with eight points. Team AnandZhou, comprised of Haituka Anandkumar from Redmond and David Zhou from Seattle, finished in third place with seven points. Best annotated game prizes are still being judged and will be announced in a future issue of *Northwest Chess*.

Congratulations to the winners!

Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

The Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss took place November 25-27 alongside the main tournament to honor the late Carol Kleist, who passed away last spring. The 13-player adult-only (18+) six-round Swiss featured a slightly faster time control of G/90;+30, which offered a nice alternative for those adults looking to spend less time at the board and wishing to avoid playing those pesky underrated kids! The event was run under the supervision of Senior TD Fred Kleist, Carol's husband, and was sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous prize fund of \$1000 guaranteed by SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan. Federal Way chess aficionado H.G. Pitre opted to "simul" the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss and the 3-day Class A section of the main tournament, which made for some challenging decisions in the rounds in which he was playing two games simultaneously! Paul Leblanc (1837-1851, 5.0) of Victoria, B.C. emerged victorious with an impressive five wins from six games and won the tournament with a round to spare! His only loss came at the hands of tournament

Standings. Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss									
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total Points
1	Paul C Leblanc	1837	W10	W7	W2	W5	W6	L3	5
2	Richard LaVoice	1884	W6	W3	L1	W9	W7	H---	4.5
3	Henry Yan	1732	X---	L2	W12	L7	W9	W1	4
4	Ralph Anthony	1638	D12	L6	H---	W8	W10	W7	4
5	H G Pitre	1827	W11	W9	H---	L1	H---	D6	3.5
6	Don Hack	1347	L2	W4*	W13	W12	L1	D5	3.5
7	Brian Sullivan	1525	W8	L1	W11	W3	L2	L4	3
8	Michael Rodney	unr.	L7	W10	L9	L4	W12	W13	3
9	Austin Cluff	1608	X---	L5	W8	L2	L3	H---	2.5
10	Henry Louie	1317	L1	L8	B---	W11	L4	H---	2.5
11	Paul MacDonell	1317	L5	B---	L7	L10	W13	D12	2.5
12	Andrew Johnson	unr.	D4	W13	L3	L6	L8	D11	2
13	John Selsky	748	H---	L12	L6	B---	L11	L8	1.5

sponsor Henry Yan (1732) in the final round. Rich LaVoice (1858-1861, 4.5) of Kirkland finished in second place a half-point back. Two Seattle Chess Club board members, Henry Yan (1732-1726, 4.0) of Bellevue and Ralph Anthony (1583-1564, 4.0) of Mukilteo tied for =third/U2000 honors with four points each. Canadian chess king Don Hack (1347-1409, 3.5), who recently relocated from Surrey to Ladysmith, captured first Place U1700 plus the upset prize for his second round knockout win over Anthony. Newcomer Michael Rodney (unrated-1118, 3.0) from Redmond earned the Unrated Prize with an impressive three points. Sitka chess wise guy Henry Louie (1313-1300, 2.5), now residing in Mineral, a former logging camp and mining town located near the Pierce/Lewis County line, and Canadian newcomer Paul MacDonell (unrated-101, 2.5) shared the U1400 prize with two-and-a-half points apiece. The results are presented in pink, since it was Carol's favorite color.

Thanksgiving Scholastic

The Thanksgiving Scholastic chess tournament was held on Black Friday, November 25, at the Redmond Marriott. A total of 127 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout Washington State, including the cities of Lynnwood, Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Mill Creek, Seattle, Bremerton, Duvall, Normandy Park, Issaquah, Renton, Kirkland, Shoreline, Bothell, Medina, Auburn, Clyde Hill, Kent, Woodinville, Olympia, and Snohomish! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by chess tournament director extraordinaire Coach

Lane Van Weerdhuizen with assistance from Advait + Anvith Vijayakumar, their father Vijay Sankaran, and parent volunteer Jeff Weng. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by Meiling Cheng. The 5-round, G/25; d5, Swiss tournament was split into four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-12 U900, and 4-12 Open.

Congratulations to the winners:

K-3 U800:

First: Emmett Bates-Callaghan, five points. - Champion!

Second/Third: Satvik Verma, Ellis Nelson, William Wright, and Rebecca Li, four points each

Biggest Upset + Best Female Player: Mila Passmore, two points

K-3 Open:

First: Neevan Reddy Saddi, five points - Champion!

Second: Zhibo Zhang, 4.5 points

Final Results and Standings: WA Class Puzzle Solving Competition

#	Last Name	First Name	Highest Rating	Start Time	End Time	Minutes used	Score (out of 16)	Prize
1	Wei	James	1864	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	11.75	1st
2-3	Cheng	Edward	1829	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	10.25	Tied 2nd/3rd
2-3	Razmov	Gabriel	1590	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	10.25	Tied 2nd/3rd
4	Condit	Noah	1515	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	8	1st U2000
5	Yondon	Odbayar	1662	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	7.75	1st U1700
6-7	Dale	Luke	1326	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	5.75	Tied 1st U1400
6-7	Li	Edgar	1235	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	5.75	Tied 1st U1400
8	Gao	Chenrui	912	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	4.75	
9	Cheng	Selina	1456	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	4.25	
10	Chen	Felix	0	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	3.75	1st Unrated
11	Chen	Cong	0	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	3	
12	Chen	Max	0	5:07:00 PM	5:52 PM	45	2.25	

Third: Yang Xu, four points

Best Female Player: Veronique Joseph, three points

Biggest Upset: David Pan, three points

4-12 U900:

First: Declan Darling, Timothy Li & Nimalan Venkatesan, four points - Co-Champions!

First 900+: Chenrui Gao, 4.5 points

Best Female Player: Tara Mehran, two points

Biggest Upset: Aaron Hsiao, three points

4-12 Open:

First: Bowen Zhang, 4.5/5 - Champion!

Second/Third: Adrian Preizler, Pranav Kokati & Aaron Zhang, four points

Best Female Player: Aarini Bansal, three points

Biggest Upset: Kayne Winter, three points

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Championship

On Friday evening at 5:00 PM, twelve brave contestants were given a maximum of 45 minutes to solve 16 challenging chess puzzles. Solutions were written on paper, and contestants were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed. Congratulations to the winners:

We have included the puzzles below for the Northwest Chess readers to enjoy. How many can you solve correctly? Solutions will be revealed in a future issue of *Northwest Chess*!

Washington Class - Puzzle Solving Championship

Nov 25, 2022

(Puzzles designed by Valentin Razmov)

Name: _____ Rating: _____ NWSRS Start Time: _____ PM End Time: _____ PM

Puzzle #1: Black to move and mate in 1.

Solution: 1. _____



Puzzle #3: White to move and mate in 3.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Puzzle #2: White to move and mate in 2.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #4: What is Black's best move? Show a sample line to illustrate your idea.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



1 of 4

Washington Class - Puzzle Solving Championship

Puzzle #5: White to move and win material.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Puzzle #7: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Puzzle #6: White to move and win material.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____



Puzzle #8: White's position seems promising. How should Black respond to 1. Bf8? Explain the idea.

Solution: 1. Bf8 2. _____ 3. _____



2 of 4

Washington Class - Puzzle Solving Championship

Puzzle #9: White to move and gain an advantage.

Solution: 1. _____ (or 1. _____ 2. _____) 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #11: What is Black's best hope for a draw?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #10: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #12: White to move. Which side is better?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Explanation: _____



3 of 4

Washington Class - Puzzle Solving Championship

Puzzle #13: Fischer with White has sacrificed a piece for an attack. What should Black do?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Explanation: _____



Puzzle #15: White has sacrificed two pawns for quick development and an initiative. How do they continue to pressure Black?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Explanation: _____



***Bonus*:** (a) How does White win after 1... Bg6+?

Explanation: _____

(b) Add a dark-squared bishop (put a "B" on the board) to improve Black's chances. Black to move.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



4 of 4

Washington Class Chess Workshop For Women And Girls

The third Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WCF Director of Women's and Girls' Chess, WFM Chouchan Airapetian, took place on Friday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM in the studio A space. A solid turnout of about a ten girls and women attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza and beverages courtesy of WCF while discussing the topic of: "How to develop and cultivate women's and girls' chess". Some fun informal blitz and bughouse games broke out to conclude the enchanting evening.

Special Appearance By Magician Rich Waters

On Friday afternoon from 12:00-2:00 PM, a group of excited kids and adults gathered nearby the Thanksgiving Scholastic playing room to witness a tricky and exciting magic show!

Local Magician Rich Waters performed some close-up magic tricks and balloon twisting, much to the amazement of the mesmerized audience! In fact, the exhibition caused such a commotion that the entire shebang had to be moved further down the hall to not disturb the three-day players! Parents and kids alike thoroughly enjoyed Magic Rich's performance, which provided a few hours of entertainment for several antsy youngsters.

Special thanks to chess wonder woman Karen Schmidt for connecting WCF with Magic Rich, with whom she regularly meets to play chess at the new Detective Cookie Chess Park in Seattle.

Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship

The Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship took place on Saturday, November 26 at 4:00 PM between rounds three and four of the three-day schedule. Seven intrepid chess warriors honored the legacy of Bobby Fischer as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played Chess960 from a different starting position each

round! Pieces were drawn at random by the players and spectators out of a bag, which produced some truly unorthodox starting positions including: RQNBKRN (Pos #601), RKNRNBBQ (Pos #862), BBNNQRKR (Pos #32), and RQBBKRNN (Pos #885). Seattle Fischer-Random chess enthusiast Valentin Razmov (1883, 3.5) emerged victorious with three-and-a-half points from four games, conceding only a single draw to second place finisher Edward Cheng (1829, 3.0), also of Seattle, in the third round. Two players tied for third/ U2000 a with two points apiece: Boas Lee (1687, 2.0) of Shoreline and Gabriel Razmov (1590, 2.0) of Seattle. Young Selina Cheng (1456, 1.0) of Seattle earned the U1700 prize with one point. Olivier Mercier (1030, 0.0) of Redmond captured the U1400 prize by playing hard in each and every game regardless of the result, just like Bobby Fischer did.

Chess-inspired Artwork On Display

Local artist and chess player Gabriela Osias was on-site on Saturday from 12:00-4:00 PM to display some of her chess-inspired artwork! Players and parents had a chance to check out some samples on her Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/gosi_creates/). Gabriela's work is notable for its novelty and fine craftsmanship and makes a wonderful gift for any chess enthusiast! All proceeds from her art sales go towards purchasing chess sets and donating them to homeless shelters.

A sketch by Gabriela adorns the front cover of this issue!—Editor.

Washington Class G/45 Championship

The Washington Class G/45 Championship, a four-round Swiss in one nine-player section, took place on Sunday, November 27 in the afternoon starting at 1:30 PM. Players ranging in rating from Class E to Master competed over the course of the afternoon, which made for some quite imbalanced and eventful struggles! With only five players officially registered for the tournament, a different "house player" came in each round to even out the numbers and ensure that everyone had a game. Dominic Colombo (1936-1941 – 3.5) of Gig Harbor topped the standings with an undefeated three-

and-a-half points, conceding only a single draw in the third round to second place finisher Robin Tu (1700-1718 – 2.0) of Seattle. Max McCall (1275-1301 – 1.5) of Seattle finished in third place with one-and-a-half points, thanks in large part to a clutch draw with Tu in the second round. Gig Harbor chess veteran Rogelio Zaragoza (1894-1838 – 1.0), who signed up for the tournament on a whim while in the area holiday shopping with his wife, earned first U2000 honors with one point. Seattle Chess Club webmaster Austin Cluff (1534-1549 – 1.0) won the U1700 prize with one point, taking one step closer to his goal of becoming a master of chess!

Washington Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

The 25-player Washington Class "Knight-Time" Blitz tournament, a popular annual side event at large WCF tournaments, got off to a blistering start on Sunday evening at 8:30 PM in Salon 3 next to the main playing hall under the direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan. The seven-round, single Swiss blitz tournament featured a time control of G/5; +2 and was US Chess Blitz rated. National Master Daniel He (2367-2357 – 6.0) of Redmond came out of retirement and crushed the field with an impressive six points from seven games, allowing only two draws against young stars Vidip Kona (1875) and Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1860) in rounds three and six, respectively.

Four players tied for second/third/ U2000 honors a full point back: Bryan Leano (2097-2089 – 5.0) of Draper (UT), Vidip Kona (1875-1879 – 5.0) of Redmond, Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1860-1888 – 5.0) of Redmond, and Valentin Razmov (1697-1713 – 5.0) of Seattle. Speedy Seattle youngsters Gavin Shi (1245-1318 – 4.0) and Selina Cheng (1232-1265 – 4.0) split the U1700 prize with four points apiece. Two Washington chess kings shared U1400 honors with three-and-a-half points each: Stephen Shuman (1230-1230 – 3.5) of Seattle and Balbir Singh (1186-1195 – 3.5) of Sea-Tac. Vishal Suram (unrated-1046 – 3.0) of Bothell earned the Unrated prize with an impressive three points.

As part of the annotate games competition, several players have annotated their games for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy...

**David Zhou (2112) –
Viktors Pupols (2200) [E04]**
WA Class Championship (Masters)
Redmond, WA (R6), November 27, 2022
[David Zhou]

Going into the final round, I trailed the tournament leader by a full point and two other players by half a point each. In order to have any chance at placing, this was a must-win game. My opponent was a well-known local master with a history of strong results. He has decades of games in the database, so it was difficult to prepare in the few minutes before the round started. His Wikipedia page cited a classical win against Bobby Fischer in the 1955 US Junior Championship. Having recently visited Fischer's grave in Iceland, I was determined to avenge my chess hero.

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 dxc4
5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Qa4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+**

Maintaining the tension with ...Nd5 makes more sense. After this bishop exchange, I will easily regain the pawn and retain a space advantage.

8.Nbxd2 0-0 9.Qxc4

Black has a space disadvantage and will find it hard to develop his light-squared bishop naturally. If he could break with ...e5 without allowing d5, he could solve both problems. It seems however that White has the resources to prevent this break.

9...Qe7

9...Qd5 10.Qc3 and ...e5 is no closer to happening while the queen is now exposed after a subsequent 0-0.

10.e4 e5

A surprising move. Black is accepting a long-term weakness on c7 and losing time with the knight while already behind

in development. 10...Qb4 11.Qc3 Qxc3 12.bxc3 would allow White to bolster his center, but with the queens off, the space advantage is less dangerous for Black.

11.d5 Nb8

11...Na5 12.Qc3 b6 only helps White clamp down on c6 harder.

12.0-0 Ne8 13.Rac1?!

13.b4! move would save a full tempo over the game and prevent Black's natural development. 13...Nd6 is conveniently met by 14.Qc3 Re8 15.Rfc1 using the f1-rook since the play is on the queenside 15...Na6 16.a4 Black's position is already on the verge of collapse.

13...Na6

Now White will have to spend a tempo on a3 to execute the same plan, allowing Black to gain some coordination.

14.a3 Nd6 15.Qc3 Re8 16.b4 Bd7

Black has stopped b5 for now, but his pieces are still awkward and the c7-pawn requires constant attention.

17.Qb3!?

With the direct idea of forcing a4 and b5. 17.Nc4 also looked good as the d6-knight is Black's only good piece. If Black does not exchange on c4, Na5 will increase the queenside pressure. However, I didn't see any necessity to enter the complications after ...Bb5 when I already had a stable advantage. 17...Bb5? forcing complications is easily refuted by (17...Nxe4 18.Qxe5 leaves Black with many queenside weaknesses and poor pieces.) 18.Nfxe5 f6 19.Nxd6 Bxf1 20.Nxe8 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 White will save one knight with a clearly winning position. 21...fxe5 22.Nxc7 Rc8 23.d6!

17...c6

Black's position is very uncomfortable,

and my opponent spent over 40 minutes on this move. 17...Bb5 Hoping to clamp down on the light squares only provides temporary relief. White will be able to regroup after 18.Rfe1 Qd7 preventing a4 19.Nb1!? Ba4 20.Qb2 f6 21.Nc3 Rac8 22.Bf1 intending b5; Black is already lost.

18.Rfe1 Nc7 19.a4 a6

19...a5 20.b5 utilizes the pin against the c7-knight.

20.Qe3?

Surprisingly, this is the move that throws the advantage away. Black will be able to bring a rook to c8, move the c7-knight and take on d5, challenging the only open file. 20.Rc5! is difficult for Black to meet. The simple threat is to take on c6 and e5. 20...Qf6 21.Qc2 This dual-purpose move exerts further pressure on the c-file while also protecting e4. The d2-knight will find a nice home on e3 via f1, which will also further discourage Black from taking on d5. 21...Rac8 22.Nf1 Na8 23.Ne3.

20...Rc8 21.Qb6 Nce8

Black has found a solid regrouping that has solved nearly all of his problems. I'll no longer be able to claim any edge after Black exchanges on d5, so I should already think of playing safely with a5 or dxc6.

22.Nb3?!

This move overlooks the hanging pawn on a4 as well as Black's counterplay based on pushing his e-pawn (following an exchange in the center).

22...cxd5

Only realized here a4 is loose.

23.exd5?

I should have spent more time on this move once I realized a4 was also threatened. It was time to admit I no

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longer had any edge and enter damage control mode. 23.Rxc8! Rxc8 24.exd5 e4 25.Nc5! would keep me in the game.

23...Rxc1! 24.Nxc1 f6?

24...e4! is very hard to meet. One of the main issues is that the pawn can never be captured due to the rook on e1 being undefended and the threat of ...f5 winning a pinned piece. 25.Nd2 Bxa4 Black has a clean pawn, and his pieces are coming to life. The formerly awkward knights hold the all the queenside weaknesses down while it is now White's knights that are passive.

25.a5 Qd8 26.Qe3

I was still hoping to play for an advantage here.

26...Qc7 27.Nd2?!

27.Nb3! aiming to plant the knight on c5 was correct, but I feared a queen invasion. 27...Qc4 28.Nc5 Bb5 29.Qd2 covers both hanging pawns.

27...Rc8 28.Bf1?

28.Ncb3 Qc3 29.Nc5 again would give White all the advantages of the previous variation.

28...Qc3



Position after 28...Qc3

29.Qxc3!

All other moves immediately lose. 29.Nd3? is what I intended from afar, but this loses simply to 29...Nf5 30.Qe2 Nd4 31.Qe3 Qxd2!

29...Rxc3 30.Ncb3!

Better late than never. Black has a slight edge in this endgame where he controls the only open file and the b4-pawn may eventually be a weakness. For now, the b3-knight shields the pawn from any Rc2-b2 ideas.

30...Kf7 31.Re3?

The position is already becoming tricky to play and this move only allows Black to invade further into White's camp.

31...Rxe3?

This exchange surprised me and was also a relief. Perhaps Black was happy to enter an equal minor piece endgame after defending for most of the game, but I was already on the back foot. 31...Rc2! 32.Bd3 Rb2 Black has conceded the c-file, but White has no use for it. The difference in activity between the two rooks is stark.

32.fxe3 f5 33.Nc5 Bc8 34.e4

With this move, I stop ...e4 and gain the e4-square if Black exchanges.

34...g6 35.Bh3 Kf6 36.Kf2 Nb5??

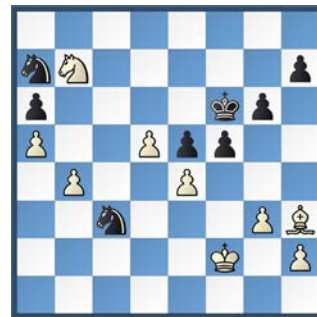
This immediately loses as my knight can suddenly infiltrate c4! 36...Kg5 37.Nf3+ Kf6 38.Ke3 f4+? 39.gxf4 exf4+ 40.Kxf4 Bxh3 41.e5+ Ke7 42.exd6+ Nxd6 43.Ng5

37.Nc4! Ned6 38.Nb6! Nc3 39.Nxc8?

Played with only a few minutes to make the time control, this move lets the win slip. 39.Ke1!!, sidestepping the check, is the only clearly winning one. Black has no way to improve his position, and we will take c8 and b7 next without fearing the knight capturing e4 with tempo.

39...Nxc8 40.Nxb7 Na7??

Inexplicable blunders often happen on the last moves before reaching time control and this is no exception. 40...Nxe4+ is obvious and strong, after which Black should draw. 41.Ke3 Ne7 42.Kd3 Nxd5 43.Kc4 Ne3+ 44.Kd3 Nd5=



Position after 40...Na7

41.d6??

Despite having gained the 30 extra minutes, I return the favor, again swinging the evaluation to equal. 41.exf5? Nxd5! (41...gxf5? 42.d6 Ke6 43.g4!) 42.Nc5! (42.fxg6? Kxg6 and Black hangs on.) 42...Nxb4 43.Nd7+ Ke7 44.Nxe5+- White is doing very well, but the win still needs to be proven in this position.

41...Nxe4+ 42.Ke3 Ke6 43.Nc5+!? Kxd6??

Thankfully in this line, I had correctly calculated out the win. 43...Nxc5! 44.bxc5 Nc6 45.Bf1 Kd5 46.Bxa6 Kxc5 47.d7 Kd6!= Only this move, which I had missed when I played d6, draws. (47...Kb4?? is the only move I had considered for Black, and this loses immediately to 48.Bb7)

44.Nxe4+ fxe4 45.Bf1!

White will win the a6-pawn for the b4-pawn. The subsequent ending would be drawn if Black's pawns weren't shattered (e.g. if the e4 pawn were on f5), but as it is, White has a simple won ending.



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45...Nc6 46.Bxa6 Nxb4 47.Bb7 Nc2+ 48.Kxe4 Nd4 49.a6 Nb5

The knight's tour has stopped the pawn and kept the game going, but the result is a foregone conclusion. At this point, the game next to ours on board four had completed and Viktors and I were the last ones in the playing hall. Having been so engrossed in the complications leading up to the time control, I hadn't seen the results of the round five tournament leaders. I wouldn't find out until after my game whether I was playing with any chance of finishing tied first.

50.h3

The first step to converting is to gain access to the kingside with the king. To do this, I will need to provoke the h7 and g6 pawns to advance, but Bd5?? would lose to ...Nc3+.

50...Na7 51.Bd5 h6 52.Bf7 g5 53.Kf5 Nc6 54.Kg6 Ke7 55.Bd5 Na7 56.Kxh6 Kf6!?

Viktors finds a tricky idea, trying to lock my king on the edge of the board.

57.Be4 Nc8 58.Kh7

I intend simply to take the long way around!

58...Kf7 59.Bd5+ Kf6 60.g4 Na7 61.Kg8 e4

Hoping for activity with the king.

62.Bxe4 Ke5 63.Bf5 Kf4 64.Kg7 Kg3 65.Kg6 Kh4!?

Again playing the trickiest idea in a lost position. I could give up the pawn on h3 and still have a completely winning position, but keeping the pawn seemed most convincing to me.

66.Bd3 Nc6 67.Bf1 Na7 68.Kf6 Nc8 69.Ke6 Kg3 70.Kd7 Na7 71.Kc7

As it turned out, the stars aligned on

the first two boards where I needed the tournament leader to lose and the two players trailing by half a point to draw. With this win, I finished in a four-way tie for first in the Washington Class Championship.

1-0

Paul Lazarte (1873) –

James Wei (1858) [B06]

WA Class Championship (Class X)
Redmond, WA (R1), November 26, 2022
[James Wei]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Bg7 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0

7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 0-0 equalizes.

8.c4 Qd6 9.Nc3 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Ng4!?

An interesting try to simplify into an endgame.

11.Bxg4!?

11.Nf3 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Nc6 13.h3 Nf6 14.Be3 gives White an advantage.

11...Qxd4 12.Qxd4 Bxd4 13.Bxc8 Rxc8

Black now has a strong wooden shield in the center, and now needs to develop the rest of his pieces.

14.Nd5 Nc6 15.Rb1 e6 16.Ne3

16.Nf4 Rd8 17.Ne2 Bf6 18.Be3 Nb4 19.a3 Nc2 20.Bf4 Rac8 is good for Black.

16...Bxe3

Inaccurate. 16...Rd8 followed by more natural moves maintains Black's advantage.

17.Bxe3 Nb4 18.a3 Nc2 19.b3?! b5! 20.cxb5

White cannot save the pawn, for example 20.Rfc1 Nxa3 21.Ra1 b4 followed by a5 and a4.

20...Nxa3 21.Ra1 Nxb5 22.Ra5 a6 23.Rfa1 Nc7

Not 23...Rc3?? 24.Rxb5!

24.h4 Nd5 25.Rxa6 Rxa6 26.Rxa6 Nxe3 27.fxe3 Rc3

White gets to pick his suffering for the rest of the game.

28.b4 Rxe3 29.b5 Rb3 30.Ra8+ Kg7 31.Rb8 e5 32.b6

Kf6 33.b7 h5

The following king invasion will prove to be decisive.

34.Kf2 Kf5 35.g3 Kg4 36.Re8 Rxb7 37.Rxe5 Rb2+ 38.Kf1 Kxg3 39.Re7 Rf2+ 40.Kg1 Rf4 41.Ra7 Kxh4 42.Kg2 g5 43.Ra3

Hoping for 43...f5?? 44.Rh3+ Kg4 45.Rg3+ Kh4 46.Rh3+ Kg4 47.Rg3+ Kh4 48.Rh3+, a picturesque disaster.

43...g4 44.Ra5 g3 45.Ra3 Rf2+ 46.Kg1 Kh3 47.Ra4 f5 48.Ra5 h4 49.Ra4 f4 50.Ra3 f3 51.Rb3 Re2 52.Rxf3 Re1+

0-1

Paul Buchignani (1382) –

Aneesh Vashisht (1321) [C45]

WA Class Championship (Class D)
Redmond, WA (R1), November 26, 2022
[Paul Buchignani]

Scotch Opening. The game appeared to be basically even until move 20 when a miscalculation by White lost the exchange and ultimately sealed his fate. Instead of 20.exf6, the simple Qxd6 would have won a pawn and very possibly the game.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4

White gambits a pawn—at least temporarily—for development.

3...exd4 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nxd4 Nxd4 6.Qxd4

Material is even again.

6...Nf6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bf4 Be6 10.h3 h6 11.Rad1 Nd7 12.Rfe1

Better was Bxe6.

12...Re8

I expected 12...Bf6 to harass my queen, but it would have led to worse than that for White as follows: 13.Qd3 Nc5 14.Qe2 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qf6 16.Bh2 Qxc3 17.Bd5 Bxd5 18.exg5 which wins a pawn for Black.

13.a3

Better was Bxe6.

13...Bxc4

Still better was ...Bf6—leading to the same result as in the 12th move.

14.Qxc4 Bf6 15.Bg3 Nb6 16.Qd3 Qe7 17.f4 Nd7

Probably better was ...Rad8.

18.e5 Nc5

18...Nxe5 maybe better but doesn't seem



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intuitive at first glance and still loses a point for Black anyway.

19.Qd5 c6



Position after 19...c6

20.exf6??

Big mistake. Black wins the exchange, obtains a superior position, and ultimately wins. Qxd6 was required.

20...Qxe1+!

Naturally!

21.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 22.Bxe1 cxd5 23.Nxd5 gxf6

Possibly better was ...g6.

24.Nxf6+ Kg7

After the dust settled Black was ahead two points.

25.Nd5

Slightly better was Bc3.

25...Re8 26.Bc3+ Kg6 27.Kf1 Ne4 28.Bb4 Kg7 29.g4 Rc8 30.c3 b6 31.a4 Nd2+ 32.Kf2

Better was Ke2.

32...Nc4 33.Ne7 Rc7 34.Nf5+ Kh7 35.b3 Nb2 36.Ba3

Another mistake. I was worried about 36...a5. White's position continues to deteriorate.

36...Rxc3

Attacks White's pawns at b3 and h3 and creates a passed pawn on the d-file.

37.Bxd6 Rxh3

Black picks up another point.

38.Ng3 Rh2+ 39.Kf3

Ke3 was best.

39...Rd2 40.Bb8 Rd3+ 41.Kg2 Rxh3 42.Bxa7 Nxa4

Black wins another point.

43.Ne4 b5

As they say: "The passed pawn must be pushed."

44.f5

Better was Bd4.

44...b4 45.Bd4

Nf6+ was probably better.

45...Rb1 46.Nf6+ Kg7 47.Nd7+ Kg8 48.Nf6+ Kf8 49.Nd7+ Ke7 50.Ne5 b3 51.Nc6+ Kd6 52.Nb4 b2

White should resign here, but I played on, hoping against hope.

53.Nd3 Rg1+

See notes from last move.

54.Bxg1 b1Q

Black gets a fresh queen yet White keeps playing...Hel-lo.

55.Bh2+ Ke7 56.Nf4 Qc2+ 57.Kh3 Qc3+ 58.Bg3

For a few seconds the desperate white knight eyes d5 and licks his chops...in futility of course.

58...Qd4

And Black says, "nothing doing."

59.Kh4 Qd1 60.Ng2??

This blunder leads to a mate-in-two but I'll just blame it on having six seconds left on my clock.

60...Qh1+

White resigns. 0-1. The roots of this sorry ending for White can be traced back to Move #20.

0-1

Frederick Davis (1857) –
Valentin Razmov (1833) [D01]
WA Class Championship (Class A)
Redmond, WA (R4), November 26, 2022
[Valentin Razmov]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3

One of those opening lines that were considered "incorrect" years ago, and thus played only by a few, has regained popularity with recent successes (particularly at shorter time controls) of



Pranav K. Anoop (L) vs John Readey at the start of round one. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

some of the best players in the world, including the current World Champion.

2...d5 3.Bf4 a6

Avoiding the possibility of Nc3–Nb5 by White at any moment soon. Another normal and popular response for Black here is 3...c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 a6. Note the delayed development of Black's queen-side knight, which aims to jump directly to c6, if possible. (5...Bg4)

4.e3 e6

An important decision for Black here is whether to keep the light-squared bishop outside or inside the pawn chain and thus to allow or deny its exchange for a white knight, as illustrated by this alternative line: 4...Bf5 5.Nf3 e6 6.Ne5 Nfd7 7.g4 Bg6 8.Nxg6 hxg6.

5.g4

Ambitious undertaking by White, made possible by the closing of the pawn chain by Black on the previous move.

5...c5

Another way to counter White's swift king-side action is: 5...Bb4 getting ready for Nf6–Ne4 in the right moment... 6.Nge2 b5 A typical Black pawn setup against the Jobava-London system.

6.g5 Nfd7 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.h4

These were all natural moves by both sides.

8...Nb6

Black decides to add the second knight to the queen-side action too, and thus uncrowded their central space, but this limits the mobility of some of the other pieces. Notice the difference to a more typical setup with: 8...b5 9.h5 Bb7 10.Bh3 b4 11.Ne2 Be7±

9.h5 Bd6

One of the ideas behind Black's previous move.

10.Bxd6

Sometimes it's okay for White to allow a trade on f4, so long as they can maintain good control over the central squares, e.g.: 10.Qd2 Bxf4 11.exf4 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Qc7 13.0-0 Bd7±

10...Qxd6 11.dxc5=

Releasing the central tension is a concession to Black. A more promising line for White would be: 11.h6 g6 12.Qd2 with a subsequent 0-0-0.

11...Qxc5 12.Nd4 e5?!

Succumbing to the appeal of gaining more central space quickly and opening the light-squared bishop too. But the price is the weakening of the d5–pawn. 12...Bd7 13.h6 g6 14.Nb3 Qe7 was a decent alternative where Black would be fine.; 12...Nc4? is an idea Black wisely rejected during the game, as White will trade off the light pieces and be left with stronger position due to Black's weakened dark-squares: 13.Nxc6 bxc6 (13...Nxb2? 14.Qd4! Qxc6 15.h6) 14.Bxc4 Qxc4 15.h6 g6 16.Qf3!±

13.Nb3 Qd6 14.Bg2

14.h6! was a strong move, since Black cannot afford 14...g6? 15.Bg2 Be6 16.Ne4± to be followed by Ne4–Nf6+.

14...Be6 15.h6 0-0-0?

This looked like a necessary pawn sacrifice for Black, but there's a subtle problem that neither player saw. 15...Rg8! 16.hxg7 Rxg7 17.Ne4 Qc7 18.Nf6+ Ke7 was an option that Black could not stomach despite the better piece development, as Black's king would remain stuck in the center. The engine likes it.

16.hxg7 Rhg8 17.Rxh7 Bf5

This is the position that Black was counting on for their compensation.

18.Bh3?!

The best way to maintain White's advantage was 18.Rh6 Be6 (18...Qe7 19.Qf3) 19.Qh5 Rxg7 20.0-0-0±

18...Bxh3 19.Rxh3 Qe6?



Position after 19...Qe6

Black's idea was to deny White development with tempo (Qg4 and O-O-O), while "gaining" a tempo on White's rook. Can you spot White's refutation of that? 19...Rxg7 20.Qg4+ Qe6 21.Qxe6+ fxe6 22.Nc5 Rxg5 23.Ke2 would be the correct way to proceed, but, of course, Black didn't give up material earlier to arrive at that!

20.Rg3?

White backs off, handing Black the initiative. In fairness, White spent a lot of time contemplating this move, so they must have tried hard to find a better line but simply didn't notice the stronger but non-trivial idea(s). 20.Rh6 Qf5 21.Qe2!! was the subtle refutation of the earlier 19...Qe6?—Black does not have time to capture either of White's g-pawns due to a hidden strike on the opposite wing, e.g. 21...Rxg7? 22.Rxc6+! bxc6 23.Qxa6+ and White has a decisive attack.

20...d4!

Seizing the opportunity for active counterplay!

21.Ne4?

Once again, bending to Black's pressure, rather than responding in kind: 21.Nc5 dxc3 (21...Qc4 22.N3e4 Nb4!? 23.Rc1) 22.Nxe6 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 fxe6 24.bxc3 Nd5=. These lines look inconclusive and not to anyone's advantage.

21...dxc3 22.Qg4?!

Opting to trade queens in order to reduce the pressure, but this seals Black's advantage. Notice that Black's pawn structure is superior. 22.Qe2 Nd4 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.Nf6! Rxg7 25.fxe3 was a way for White to fight back.

22...Qxg4 23.Rxg4 exf2+ 24.Nxf2?!

24.Kxf2 Rxg7 25.Rh4! =

24...Rxg7 25.Ke2 Nd5

Black's position is preferable, but not winning.

26.Nd3?

26.Rh1

26...Rdg8?

Missing a chance to create connected passers and claim a strong advantage. 26...f5! 27.Rg3 e4 28.Ndc5 Rh7!

27.Rag1?

27.Rf1! insisting on trading a weakness for a weakness, while preventing Black's ...f7–f5 threat 27...f6 28.c4! Nf4+ 29.Nxf4 exf4 30.Rxf4 fxe5

27...f6

Strong, but there is even stronger! 27...f5! 28.Rh4 Rxg5 29.Rxg5 Rxg5

28.gxf6?

Black had laid a trap and White walks into it. 28.Rf1 would be the best attempt

for White to survive the endgame down a pawn. 28...Rxb5 29.Rxb5 fxb5

28...Rxb5 29.Rxb5 Rxb5 30.f7 Rf4 31.Nxf4 Nxf4+

That this recapture came with check is apparently what White had overlooked in their calculations for move 28.

32.Ke3 Ng6?!

Attractive but not optimal by Black. 32...Ne6! 33.Nc5 Ncd8! is the better idea: controlling all access squares to Black's e5-pawn, while apprehending and preparing to capture White's f7-pawn. At this point, both players were very low on time, so decisions were necessarily made without thorough analysis. 34.Nxe6 (34.c4 Nf8 35.Ke4 Nxf7+) 34...Nxe6 35.Ke4 Ng5+ 36.Kxe5 Nxf7+-+

33.Nc5?

33.Ke4! Nd8 34.Kf5 Nf8 35.Kf6!? and White's king is very active, making conversion a far more difficult task.

33...Nd8 34.Ke4 Nxf7 35.Kf5 Ngh8?!

Seemingly holding everything together, but Black's pieces lack mobility as a result, and this will cost them the e5-pawn. 35...Nf8! was simply winning, holding the white king at bay, due to 36.Kf6? Nd7+-+

36.Kf6 Kc7 37.Ne4 Kc6 38.c4?

Allowing Black chances that they didn't notice and didn't take. 38.Ke6

38...a5?

38...Nd6!+-

39.b3?

39.Ke6. King activity is White's best chance against a relatively disorganized black cavalry.

39...b5??

Lesson to remember: Don't push pawns without due consideration, especially if those pawns will be needed alive to be able to win the game. 39...Nd6! was winning again, but with only seconds left on the clock before move 40, Black missed that opportunity too.

40.Ke6?

White, also in time trouble, passes by their best drawing chance. 40.cxb5+ Kxb5 41.a3!=

40...bxc4?!

40...b4♣. When you strive to win, saving pawns is better than trading them when



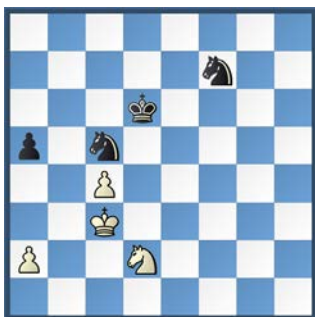
Marilyn Wilke ponders her next move. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

there are just a few pawns left in the game.

41.bxc4 Nd8+!

Finally, the time control has passed and with 30 added minutes Black took their time to find an effective route to victory. Paradoxically, that route passes through immediately giving away one of their two remaining pawns—but the payoff for that are the revived two knights!

42.Kxe5 Nhf7+ 43.Kd4 Ne6+ 44.Kc3 Nc5 45.Nd2 Kd6



Position after 45...Kd6

46.Kd4?!

White is lured by king activity around the central squares, but the last drawing opportunity was to focus on the sole remaining black pawn and to attempt to give away White's knight for it. If that were to happen, the resulting position—with two black knights versus White's couple of pawns—is still winning for Black, but not without excellent endgame technique. The principles have been described a century ago by famous endgame composer Alexey Troitsky, and during the game Black was trying to restore from memory those ideas, just in case. 46.Kb2! Moving toward Black's a-pawn... 46...Ne5 47.Nb3!? Nxc4+ (47...Nxb3? 48.axb3! Kc5 49.Ka3!= Black cannot make progress while also keeping their a-pawn from being traded.) 48.Kc3! Kd5! (48...Nxb3? 49.Kxc4!)= 49.Nxa5 Nxa5+-

46...Nd8 47.Kc3 Nc6 48.Kb2 Ke5?! 49.Kc3?

A final error, allowing the trade of knights, which leads to a simple win by Black. 49.Nb3! Ne4 50.Ka3 Kd6 51.Ka4 Nc3+ 52.Ka3 a4 53.Kb2 Ne4 54.Ka3 axb3 55.axb3 Kc5 56.b4+ Nxb4 57.Kb2 Kd4+. Although this is winning for Black, doing it within the 50-move rule may be difficult in practice.

49...Ne4+ 50.Nxe4 Kxe4 51.a3 a4 52.c5 Kd5! 53.Kd3 Kxc5 54.Kc3 Nd4 55.Kb2 Kc4 56.Ka2 Kc3 57.Ka1 Kb3 58.Kb1 Kxa3

In retrospect, this complicated game showcased fascinating middlegame and endgame ideas.

0-1

**Paul Lazarte (1873) –
Erik Liu (1800) [B90]**

WA Class Championship (Class X)
Redmond, WA (R5), November 27, 2022
[Paul Lazarte]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bd3 e5 7.Nf3 b5

We started with Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation. I thought we were competing

for the center squares until he moved ...b5. I believed there was a plan for ...Bb7 and ...b4 to pressure e4.

8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.Qd2 Bb7

I moved the queen up in case of queenside castling and to continue the attack on the kingside.

10.a3 Be7 11.Nh4 g6 12.0-0 h6 13.Be3 Ng4 14.Nf3 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Nf6

I would say Black did a great job in neutralizing the kingside attack.

16.Rad1 Qc8 17.h3 Nh5 18.Ne2 g5

The table had turned. Black is now attacking my kingside.

19.Ng3 Nxc3

I thought that 19...Nf4 was a better move, but I was lucky Black took the knight on g3, although I ended up with doubled pawns.

20.fxc3 d5

This was a tricky move. Black's plan was to skewer my queen with ...Bc5+.

21.Qe2 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 d4 23.Rc1 f6

I thought 23...f6 weakened the king's

defenses. I would have castled.

24.c3

After this move, I knew that I now had the advantage. ...dxc3 will put his queen in a bad position. ...Rc8 will weaken his pawn structure and expose the queenside.

24...dxc3 25.Rxc3 Qd6 26.Rd1



Position after 26.Rd1

A big decision had to be made here. If 26...Qe6, I planned to advance rook to c7 or Bxb5+ taking two pawns with plans to regain bishop at b7. If 26...Qb8, I planned to take on b5.

26...Qb6 27.Nxe5

1-0

Washington Senior Championship

APRIL 14-16, 2023

Highest finishing Washington resident receives the title of Washington State Senior Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2024 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the [2023 National Tournament of Senior State Champions](#), which is held concurrently with the U.S. Open in early August.



Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Registration **deadline Thu. 4/13 @ 5pm**. No payments accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Site: Orlov Chess Academy: 4174 148th Ave NE Bld. I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052.

Format: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 1, 2023). Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 4/7, \$60 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: Fri: 6:30 PM. Sat: 10 AM, 3 PM. Sun: 10 AM, 3 PM.

Prize Fund: \$500 (based on 20 paid entries).
1st - \$150, 2nd - \$125
1st U2000/U1700/U1400 - \$75

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required, other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess Rated. April 2023 US Chess Regular supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

Co-hosted by Western WA University & WA Chess Federation



Bellingham Open

April 22, 2023



Western WA University – Viking Union Building: Multipurpose Room
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

Highest finishing WA resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2024 WA State Championship – Premier section.

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Open and Reserve U1700.

Entry fee: \$35 by 4/15, \$40 after. \$20 play-up fee if rated under 1700 and playing in Open section. Free entry for Western students. Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Registration & Check-in: 9-9:45am. Rounds (5): 10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6pm or asap.

Time Control: G/30; +10 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

Rating: NWSRS Rated. Open section also US Chess Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or April 2023 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required for Open section; no memberships required for Reserve section.

Prize Fund: \$1,200 (based on 60 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$200 2nd \$130 3rd \$100, 1st U2000/U1800: \$50

Reserve U1700: 1st \$120 2nd \$100 3rd \$80, 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$50, 1st Unrated: \$50

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$10.

Byes: Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Online registration + payment deadline: Fri, April 21 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the Waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9-9:45am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", or Venmo (@WACHess).

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

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SCC Fridays

One US Chess-rated round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) normally played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

Cabin Fever: 2/3, 10, 17, 24.
March Winds (Close Ratings): 3/3, 10, 17, 24.
Fifth Friday G/15 (4 or 5 rds.): 3/31.
April Showers: 4/7, 14, 21, 28.

February 4

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+10. **EF:** \$9(+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

Saturday Quads

February 26

Format: 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$554 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess. NS, NC.

SCC G/20 Hexes

March 4

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+10. **EF:** \$9(+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

Saturday Quads

March 5

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/60;+15. **EF:** \$20 (-\$2 SCC members). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

March 12

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/50;+10. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

Sunday Tornado

Seattle Spring Open

March 18-19, 2023

A five-round Swiss with a time control of G/100 with a 15-increment. The prize fund of \$500 is based on 24 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

First	\$150	Second	\$100	U1900	\$70
U1700	\$60	U1500	\$50	U1300	\$40
		Unrated	\$30		

Entry Fees: \$40 if rec'd by 3/13 (\$28 SCC memb.), \$52 at site (\$38 SCC memb.). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF.

Registration: Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** Sat. 10-2:30-7, Sun. 11-3:30.

Byes: 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

The 2022 Ignacio Perez Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix (Final Report)

Murlin Varner, retired bean counter

I write this column with great anticipation and great regret. The Grand Prix has been a feature of *Northwest Chess* for over 25 years, the last 20 under my direction. Through most of that time we had the participation of two states, Washington and Oregon, then three with the addition of Idaho. Over the last few years, we've had to drop back to two states with the withdrawal of Oregon, and even just one state when Idaho declined to participate. This year, we were able to renew the Idaho contest, but only with partial participation. Now, after twenty years, I need to hang up my spreadsheet and focus on my new adventure, running a used bookstore in Olympia.

Three very large events near the end of the year have jumbled the standings significantly. Many leaders from the standings published in the December magazine are no longer in those leading roles. The Washington Class Championships at the end of November had 125 participants and a multiplier of 5x. Then two events the weekend before Christmas mixed things up even more, with the Washington Winter Classic having 46 players and a 2x multiplier and the MexInsurance FIDE Open in Boise hosting 50 players and a massive 6x multiplier. Notable in that latter event was the fact that it lured one of Idaho's few Masters, Jeff Gamble, out of a retirement of over 30 years.

Prizes will be issued in the near future, once all the GP fees are collected. In the Washington and "Other" categories, there will be 13 prizes awarded, with first and second in Master, Expert, A, B, C, and D and below, plus an additional prize for the first overall (Emerson Wong-Godfrey in Washington, Arnold Yang of Oregon in the "others"). In Idaho, the Master and Expert categories are combined for a total of 11 prizes, with George Lundy taking the top honors. Remarkably for a pair of states in the far-left corner of the country, the top 15 in the "Other" group hail from

ten different states.

Well, I won't be around nagging you to play more, but don't let that stop you. Our organizers rely upon the faithful players to keep things going and growing.

Don't let me down. And if you are in Olympia, come visit me at my store, Turtleman Used Books.

Data below current through December 31.

Washington			Idaho			Other Places						
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.			
Masters			Masters			Masters						
1	Pupols	Viktors	106.5	1	Gamble	Jeff S	30.0	1	Posthuma	Joshua	MI	45.0
2	Haining	Kyle	45.0					2	Jimenez	Feidel C	MA	42.0
3	Ready	John L	42.5					2	Krienke	Makaio	FL	42.0
4	Sang	Tian	39.0					4	Kretchtov	Alexandre	CA	39.0
5	Two tied at		35.0					4	Smith	Bryan G	PA	39.0
Experts			Experts			Experts						
1	Gottumukkala	Ananth S	83.0	1	Cambareri	Michael E	39.5	1	Hon	Eric	UT	48.0
2	Min	Ryan	76.0	2	Parsons	Larry R	35.5	2	Joelson	Daniel	WY	39.0
3	Liu	Austin	72.0					3	Cohen	Lawrence S	IL	33.0
4	Jiang	Brandon	69.5					4	Sripada	Havish	OR	32.5
5	Gavrish	Leonid	58.5					5	Tang	Austin	OR	30.5
Class A			Class A			Class A						
1	Wang	Ted	104.0	1	Kircher	Caleb	68.0	1	Cole	Christopher	NV	36.0
2	Razmov	Valentin N	96.5	2	Kodihalli	Kaustubh	39.0	2	Chen	Kevin E	OR	33.0
3	Lee	Brian	94.0	3	Wei	James	36.0	3	Caluza	Severo	MT	22.5
4	Tessiore	Luca G	71.0	4	Price	Josh J	33.0	4	Merwin	Steven E	MT	18.0
5	Kona	Vidip K	65.0	5	Erickson	Kenneth	18.0	5	Three tied at			15.0
Class B			Class B			Class B						
1	Li	Edward S	106.0	1	Barrett	Evan	44.5	1	Yang	Arnold T	OR	60.0
2	Olson	Travis	103.5	2	Hamilton	Brett B	39.0	2	Ravid	Orren	NJ	40.0
3	Lin	Michael	86.0	3	Brooks	James P	30.0	3	Danduprolu	Ridhi V	AZ	30.0
4	Xu	Owen	72.5	3	Presutti	Michael J	30.0	4	Lykins	Pace	OR	22.5
5	Zhu	Jamie Z	72.0	5	Machin	Alex J	27.0	5	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
Class C			Class C			Class C						
1	Wong-Godfrey	Emerson P	121.0	1	Lundy	George	91.5	1	Sripada	Anisha	OR	39.0
2	Li	Emma S	91.5	2	Semancik	Zackary T	46.5	2	Lim	Hayul	OR	25.0
3	Merriman	Dann H	90.0	3	Longhurst	Corey K	40.5	3	Morehouse	Ethan	OR	22.5
4	Razmov	Gabriel	87.5	4	Lange	Brian S	33.5	4	Vasey	Daniel	OR	16.5
5	Ramkumar	Nikhil	86.0	5	Two tied at		30.0	5	Driscoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
Class D and below			Class D and below			Class D and below						
1	Xu	Zoe Y	106.0	1	Widdifield	Tristen A	47.5	1	Yang	Arthur T	OR	45.0
2	Burchall	Laurion	105.5	2	Nosarev	Liam	36.5	2	Deshusses	Simon M	MO	39.0
3	Singh	Balbir	99.5	3	Reisig	Thomas C	36.0	3	Long	Phil	OR	35.0
4	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	90.5	4	Jablonski	Chase	35.0	4	Hack	Don	CAN	27.5
5	Two tied at		89.5	5	Nosarev	Dimitri	34.5	5	Kodarapu	Neev	OR	25.0
Overall standings												
1	Wong-Godfrey	Emerson P	121.0	1	Lundy	George	91.5	1	Yang	Arnold T	OR	60.0
2	Pupols	Viktors	106.5	2	Kircher	Caleb	68.0	2	Hon	Eric	UT	48.0
3	Li	Edward S	106.0	3	Widdifield	Tristen A	47.5	3	Posthuma	Joshua	MI	45.0
3	Xu	Zoe Y	106.0	4	Semancik	Zackary T	46.5	3	Yang	Arthur T	OR	45.0
5	Burchall	Laurion	105.5	5	Barrett	Evan	44.5	5	Jimenez	Feidel C	MA	42.0
6	Wang	Ted	104.0	6	Longhurst	Corey K	40.5	5	Krienke	Makaio	FL	42.0
7	Olson	Travis	103.5	7	Cambareri	Michael E	39.5	7	Ravid	Orren	NJ	40.0
8	Singh	Balbir	99.5	8	Hamilton	Brett B	39.0	8	Deshusses	Simon M	MO	39.0
9	Razmov	Valentin N	96.5	8	Kodihalli	Kaustubh	39.0	9	Joelson	Daniel	WY	39.0
10	Lee	Brian	94.0	10	Nosarev	Liam	36.5	9	Kretchtov	Alexandre	CA	39.0
11	Li	Emma S	91.5	11	Reisig	Thomas C	36.0	9	Smith	Bryan G	PA	39.0
12	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	90.5	11	Wei	James	36.0	12	Sripada	Anisha	OR	39.0
13	Merriman	Dann H	90.0	13	Parsons	Larry R	35.5	13	Cole	Christopher	UT	36.0
14	Han	Shuyi	89.5	14	Jablonski	Chase	35.0	14	Long	Phil	OR	35.0
15	Razmov	Gabriel	87.5	15	Nosarev	Dimitri	34.5	15	Chen	Kevin E	NJ	33.0

